

I Have Been Blessed (Ruth 2:17-20)

Proposition: Every Christian can see the proper place of God's blessings in their life by tracing the blessings revealed to Ruth and Naomi in our text.

I. The Increase that God's Blessings Render

- A. A Providential Increase (Vs. 3)
- B. A Provisional Increase (Vs. 14, 17)
- C. A Praiseworthy Increase (Vs. 10)

II. The Indebtedness that God's Blessings Require (Vs. 18-19)

- A. A Requirement to Show (Vs. 18a-c, 19)
- B. A Requirement to Share (Vs. 18d-e)

III. The Instructions that God's Blessings Relate (Vs. 20)

- A. They Instruct Others in God's Ability (Vs. 20a)
- B. They Instruct Others to God's Adoration (Vs. 20b)

I have Been Blessed! (Ruth 2: 17-20)
We were at camp meeting in Augusta last year when we heard the song "I have been blessed" The song speaks of the blessings of the beauty of nature, blessings of physical abilities, blessings of freedom, the blessings of family and the blessings of a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. It reminds me of other songs. Thank you Lord for your blessings on me: you got a roof up above me and a good place to sleep. There's food on my table and shoes on my feet. You gave me your love Lord and a fine family. Thank you Lord for your blessings on me. What about your blessings name them one by one. I'm sure that if this song had been written in Ruth's day she would have been humming them all the way home. Ruth had been abundantly blessed of God. It's been said by others, "All I want is the crumbs from the master's table." Bro Ken used to say that's why we have so many crummy christians. God is not a Breyer cream God (a little dad will do). Psalmist said in Ps 68:19 "Blessed be the Lord, who increased that God's Blessings Render. Have you ever had one of those days that you will never forget? This must have been a red letter day for Ruth. God

increased her blessings

Beyond all her expectation. Notice there was

A. Providential Increase - (2:3) Her "hap" was no accident but divine providence. The blessings that she gathered in the field was the result of God's providential hand. God's purposes and plans are worked out by his ordering and overruling in life. After our blessings teach us that God is in control. That he is providentially ^{on our behalf} working.

B. Provisional Increase - (2:14, 17) Now remember, this was a girl that started out the day not knowing where her next meal would come from and now she had a full belly and an ephah (8 gallons) of grain to spare. Ps 37:25 He is a God that is able to provide for our needs.

I remember going down to preach at the Garden City mission in Augusta. Didn't really have the money...

C. Praiseworthy Increase - (2:10) These blessings moved Ruth (as it should any child of God) to be overwhelmed w/ Thanks giving and praise to God! When we take into account all that God has blessed us with we should have no problem praising and worshipping God. A little girl who's father was a disc Jockey was invited to a friend's

II. The delightedness that God's Blessings Require. Now picture the scene. Ruth has all this barley. More than she can eat herself. There is a sense that these blessings have some requirements

1) Psalms 68:19 "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits..." We are a blessed people. But every blessing has a purpose, a reason and I believe that we can see the proper role of blessings in our life in this passage of scripture. Every Christian can see the proper place of God's blessings in their life by tracing the blessings revealed to Ruth and Naomi in our text.

2) Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

3) ...a friends house for dinner. She was asked to say the blessing. The little girl cleared her throat, looked at her wristwatch and said, "This food, friends, is coming to you through the courtesy of Almighty God." That is exactly right and he deserves our praise for it!

1) ...to God on behalf of the rich blessings he has provided.

2) 1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: The words "shew forth" describe an advertisement. We are to be a bill board for Jesus. We are to be an advertisement of Who He is and what He can do. Ruth was such a bill-board! Also Naomi asked "Where" but Ruth told her "Who." When the world asks us how (how do we have such peace, joy, contentment, love) we tell them not how, we tell them who!

3) ..."Our blessings are a loan from God to be shared with others. All the barley we have reaped is not to be stored in barns but shared with others."

attached to them. An indebtedness to God on
A. A Requirement to Share (18-19) ^{vs 18} I can
see Ruth kick the door with her foot
"Naomi, open the door I got my hands
full." Naomi opens the door and her eyes
get about as big as silver dollars.
vs 19. In other words "girl where in the
world did you get all that food?" It did
not take a detective to find out how God had
blessed Ruth. It was evident. How did Ruth
answer Naomi? "I was a shrewd business woman.
I was just following my intuition" Na Boaz gave
it to me. 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation"

B. A Requirement to Share - vs (19e)

This blessing that Ruth had gained from
God thru Boaz, was not placed in her
personal account. I had a roommate for
a lot of years: "My food, your food." No she
shared it. She took the blessings of God
and shared it with others. (Sniff Sniff)
Do you smell that? That's preaching on
giving. I just want to remind you that every
bit of it is His and he demand a 1/10 of it back and
then an offering. Ruth gleaned then she gave. She

experiences blessing then extended blessings. Our
III. The instructions that God's Blessings
Relate. The blessings of God are
teaching tools to others. I've heard
a lot of people say "I want God to use me."

people is by what God had already done for us.

A. They instruct others in God's ability

1s22a-b Remember how Naomi was in the beginning? Don't go with me. "Call me Bitter"

God brought me home empty. Keep in 1s20

My translation: Ain't God good! She saw God's ability to provide when Ruth's blessings were seen. You see Ruth had a need. God met her need. Naomi had a need. God took that which met Ruth's need and met Naomi's need.

That's God's ability working through us.

2Cor 1:3-3 Whether you have lost a husband or wife, have a wayward child, physical pains, God

B. They instruct others to God's adoration

(20b) When the others around us see the ability of God manifest as blessings in our life, then they will give praise to God. It teaches others to worship God. Math 5:16. "Glorify God."

Naomi starts praising. We haven't heard her say one word of praise to God the whole book. Then all of a sudden, when God brushes past some one she knows and realizes that God is working in her life. She bursts open w/ praise! God blessing

IV. Close - Have you been blessed by

God? These blessings are to teach

us personally (Providence, Provision, Praise), they

require us to show + share. They are used to

instruct in God's ability + God's adoration.

- 1) 2 Corinthians 1:3-6 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.
- 2) God can use you in the lives of others to instruct them on God's ability.
- 3) Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- 4) ...God blessing and working in your life may be just what will cause a heart that has been barren and lifeless to turn to God and give Him the praise that He deserves.